

Preliminary research note

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FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE, EARLY TRANSLATIONS

Introduction

Concerning foreign translations the initial approach of the Nietzsche Archiv was one of full control, engaging Naumann as printer and Archiv-personnel as proofreaders. This evidently did not work, and the arrangement was discontinued after 2 titles printed for the French [1898] and 3 titles printed for the English [1897] translations.

EFN summarized the matter later in a letter to Oscar Levy in 1908:

With all translations... the principle element for me is that they should be done with love and enthusiasm. ... I want a contract to be a straightforward sale, at a price to be arranged, of all rights for an authorised English edition. After that I want nothing to do with the whole enterprise. The French are free to do what they want, and are free to do excellent business with their translation. The advantage for me is that I need not bother about anything anymore... I have to rescind my activities.

English [Tille edition]

Recent research on those titles includes:

In a lecture by Albi Rosenthal entitled *Early Nietzsche in Britain*, published in *Obiter Scripta* (Oxford, 2000) he states: "As long ago as 1895 an English edition of [Nietzsche's] works was projected by Messrs. Henry of London, in connection with Macmillan Company of New York; but after issuing three volumes under somewhat unfavourable auspices, the London firm gave up business, leaving the manuscripts of five unpublished volumes in the translator's hands. In 1899, the formerly published volumes were reissued by Mr. Fisher Unwin

Another scholar, David S. Thatcher, wrote in his *Nietzsche in England* (University of Toronto Press, 1970): "In 1895, Naumann [Nietzsche's German publisher] and Dr. Richard Oehler [Nietzsche's cousin who acted on behalf of his mother] arranged with the newly formed London firm of Henry & Co. to publish the English edition of Nietzsche's principal works: this was specially to include the authorized translations of Hausmann and Common, who, nevertheless disapproved of the arrangement. They believed that Henry & Co. were too much of an upstart firm. [the periodical] gave advance notice of the publication of four volumes of Nietzsche translations, of which only two, *Thus Spake Zarathustra* and *The Case of Wagner* appeared on schedule in 1896 . but a year later [the publisher] found that his publishing firm had gone bankrupt, thus making it impossible to continue his translations. He had been forced to price them very high by current standards . prices which put them quite out of reach of the average book buyer".

Indeed both texts [as recently quoted by Heritage Books, Los Angeles] give some priority to the London edition, however the justification of that is a bit vague.

My subsequent research involving autopsy includes the following:

Nietzsche Archiv [now in the Goethe-Schiller Archiv, Weimar]

Folder 72/2368 contains quite a lot of material on the early translations, edited by Tille. Among this:

- A contract between Naumann and Henry and Co. stipulating the UK rights and a US sublicense. It further states, that the printing of the UK edition will be done by Naumann at Henry's expense, and that of the US edition by a US printer at the expense of the US licence-holder.
- Royalty settlements for both concerning *THE CASE WAGNER CS* and *THUS SPAKE ZARATHUSTRA* for periods up to June 30, 1897 stating cum sales of 127 and 130 for the UK titles, being all realized under the Henry imprint.

- Manuscripts of the English translations of DAWN OF DAY and BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL.
- A letter from Mr. Simon [secretary of Henry and Co.] to EFN stating that no binding for GENEALOGY OF MORALS was made.

New York Public Library, the Berg Collection

Folder wb Simons 33 ALS

In the '80-ties of the last century the Berg collection acquired quite a lot of material from the Fisher-Unwin archives, this folder from the London bookseller Maggs.

The letters from Simon to Fisher Unwin show, that Henry and Co. received orders for GENEALOGY OF MORALS, which even in 1899 where not filled. Simon requested Fisher Unwin to do this, and to debit him for certain orders of which Henry and Co. did earlier receive payment.

Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, Weimar

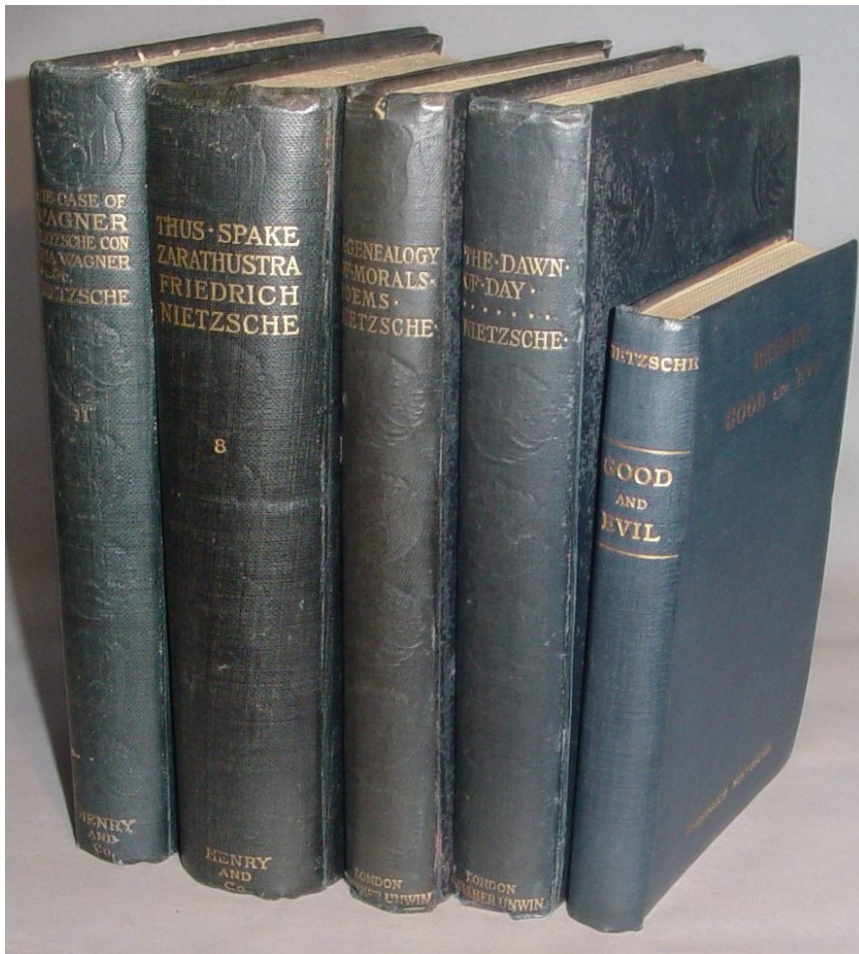
In all public libraries in the world there is only 1 copy with a Henry and Co. title of A GENEALOGY OF MORALS, which can be found in this library [signatur C 4873]. However different from the two preceding titles in the Tille series this copy is not in a Henry and Co. binding, but in one stating Fisher Unwin on spine. Evidently EFN got a set of sheets for each English title directly from Naumann and the case binding from the UK, of which a German bookbinder made a book [all copies in HAAB have non-UK endpapers]. Thus the HAAB copy is an atypical single copy, and no such copies were issued in the UK or anywhere else.

This research shows, that the Tille edition involves quite a lot of Naumann/Nietzsche Archiv effort, and as such falls within the scope of THE CANON EXTENDED.

A full blown research paper is under preparation.

My thanks for completing this research go specifically to J. Dinter [Köln], John Wronowski [Boston] and Carol Sandberg [Los Angeles] for their continuous general interest and intellectual stimulation, W. Ritschel [Weimar] for suggesting the applicable files in the G-S Archiv and Bill Schaberg [Fairfield] for his preliminary visit to NYPL and his approval on the CANON EXTENDED title.

UK first issues



THE CASE WAGNER, London, Henry and Co., 1896, printed by Naumann, Leipzig.

THUS SPAKE ZARATHUSTRA, London, Henry and Co., 1896, printed by Naumann, Leipzig.

A GENEALOGY OF MORALS, London, T. Fisher Unwin, 1899, printed by Naumann, Leipzig with a new title printed in the UK.

THE DAWN OF DAY, London, T. Fisher Unwin, 1903, printed by Unwin Brothers, Woking and London.

BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL. Corstorphine, The Good European Society, 1907, printed by The Darien Press, Edinburgh.

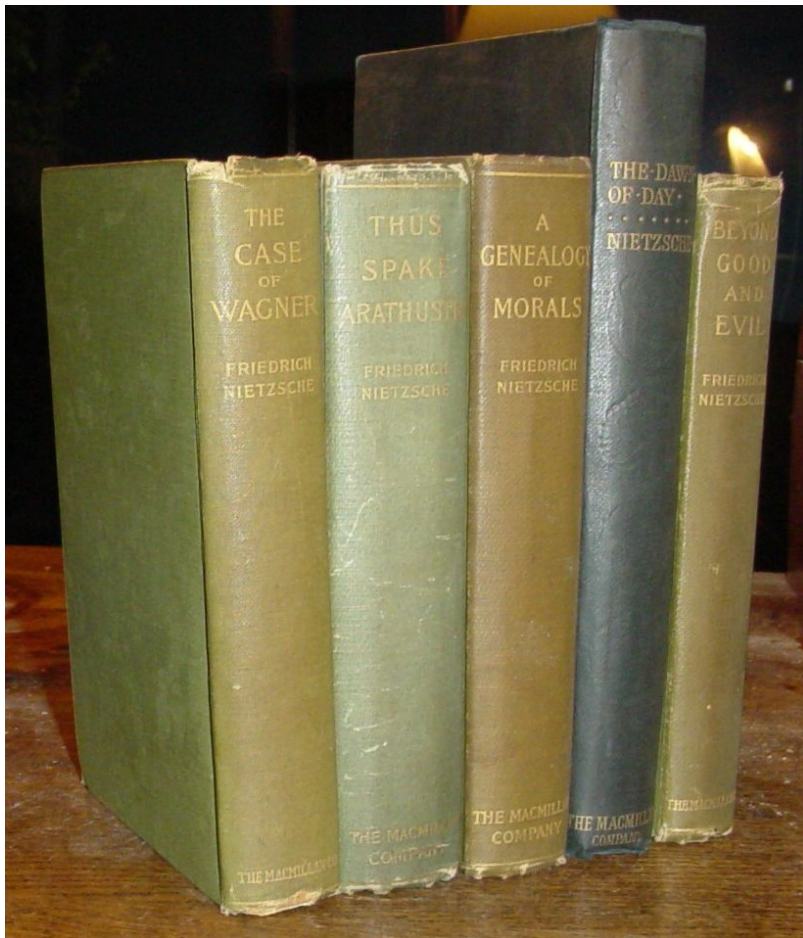
The bindings of the first 4 volumes are designed by Gleeson White, however only the first 2 are evidently made under his direct supervision, using a quite coarse quality of cloth so typically to the taste of a turn of the century designer. On the later Fisher Unwin bindings a more standard fine quality of cloth is used.

All those 4 first volumes have matted black or green endpapers identifying them as of UK manufacture. For those slow moving titles inventory was kept in sheets, the binder collecting those and preparing case bindings as needed. The Simons correspondence at NYPL states, that 25 copies was an unpractically small production run.

A variant of the 5th volume [Beyond...] has a title stating T. N. Foulis, Edinburgh as publisher [book #12741]. Pages of both variants are cut. Another variant [book #12775] has both titlepages, the uncut pages and the blue cloth binding are larger than on the two other variants.

Strictly defined the US copy [see below] is the 4th variant of this edition.

US first issues



THE CASE WAGNER, New York, MacMillan and Co. 1896, printed by The Norwood Press, Norwood Mass. USA.

THUS SPAKE ZARATHUSTRA, New York, MacMillan and Co. 1896, printed by The Norwood Press, Norwood Mass. USA.

A GENEALOGY OF MORALS, New York, MacMillan and Co. 1897, printed by The Norwood Press, Norwood Mass. USA.

THE DAWN OF DAY, New York, MacMillan and Co., 1903, printed by Unwin Brothers, Woking and London with a new titlepage.

BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL, New York, MacMillan and Co., 1907, paper identical to the 3 first US titles, type identical to the UK edition with the exception that on p 3 the preface by the author ends with June 1885. Only in the UK edition the year is followed by a full stop. The lacking full stop persists however in the 2nd US edition [1909, see book # 12932], marked *The Darien Press, Edinburgh* on the verso of title. So possibly printed in the UK on US paper and bound in the US.

The applegreen bindings are typical US products, the larger blue one on DAWN OF DAY must have been imported as a complete book from the UK.

So for the Tille series from an organizational point of view primacy must be given to the Leipzig/London team. However due to delays incurred in the production of Genealogy, ultimately the US edition thereof precedes that in the UK with 2 years.

The collection includes copies of the 10 titles summarized and pictured above and all 12 reprint editions thereof, thus being the only existing complete set of all Tille editions issued.

French editions

More successful was the project of the French translation published by Société Mercure de France under editorship of Henri Albert.

Within the scope of THE CANON EXTENDED the first 2 volumes are interesting, being printed by Naumann in Leipzig in a somewhat larger format than the later volumes printed in France in the following years.

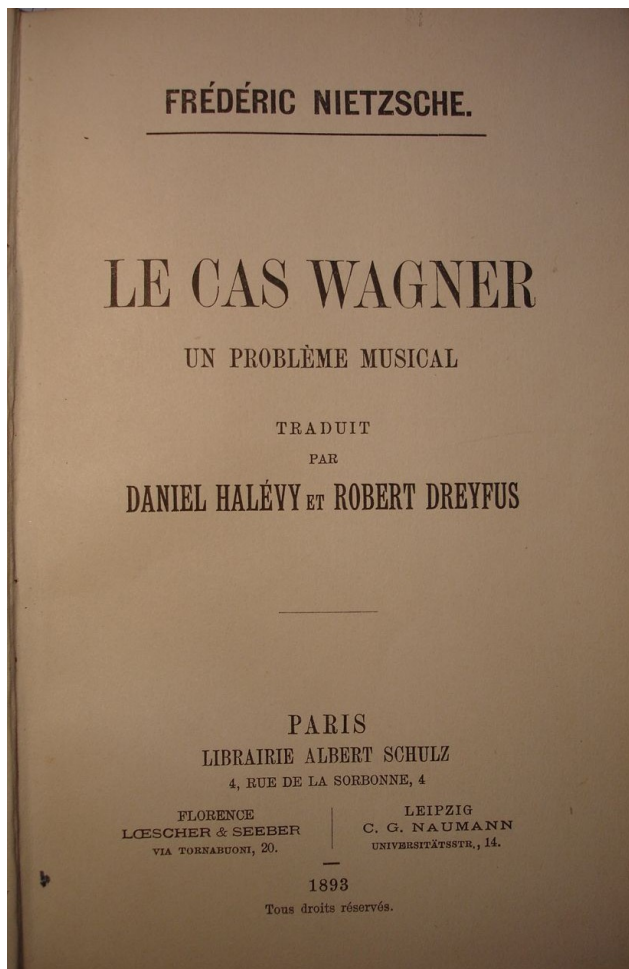
Those are:

AINSI PARLAIT ZARATHUSTRA, Société Mercure de France, Paris, 1898

PAR DELA DU BIEN ET DU MAL, Société Mercure de France, Paris, 1898

The characteristic yellow wrappers are of the same design as on later volumes of the series, however on those German printed copies the versos are white [yellow on French printed], suggesting that those early wrappers also are printed in Germany.

An earlier effort to print foreign translations in Leipzig stayed an isolated case without any following titles.



LE CAS WAGNER, Librairie Albert Schultz, Paris, 1893.

It is interesting to note, that the title also included a Florence [Italy] bookseller, suggesting an ambitious international scope of the project. Later Italian translations were published by Bocca, Torino however.

Detailed descriptions in antiquarian format of those 22 English and 3 French titles are available upon request.
For the complete set € 15.600.

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